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# THE OBSERVATOR.

*...ks on Her Majesties most Gracious* Proclamation *for Apprehending the* Author, Printer, *and* Publisher *of the* Observator. *The* Country-man's *Verses on that Subject.*

From **Saturday** February the 26th, to **Wednesday** March the 1st, 170⅘.

*...try-m.* MAster *Observator*, I have now brought you a Paper that highly concerns your self; ...'s Her Majesties Proclamation for your Ap...ension, with a Promise of the Reward of One ...dred Pounds.

*Obs.* That's more than my Carcase is worth, ...it be a pretty large one too. Let me see it. ——I am really sorry I should put the Queen ...his Charge, at a Juncture when the Necessary ...airs of the Publick call for so much Money; ...I'll assure you, Honest *Country-man*, I have ...n all the Necessary Methods could be thought ...o prevent this Charge to the Publick. I wrote ...ce to the *Speaker* of the *Honourable House of ...mons*, that to save the Charge of a *Proclama...*, my self and the Parties concerned with me, ...uld surrender our selves to a proper Officer, and ...e in sufficient Bail to Answer in Court to any ...ing that should be Objected against us by the ...ns *Attorney General*; I offered to make my ...mission to the *House* for their Satisfaction, and ...give in Security to satisfie the Law, and what ...re could be expected from a Person that knows ...mself not Guilty of any Crime?

*Country-m.* All fair upon my Honour; but the ...oclamation says you are *Seditious*.

*Obs.* But a Jury of my *Peers* must say so too, be...re I am Convicted of *Sedition*. I can't tell whe...r my Fate will be such, as that this Proclama...on shall serve to make me a Prisoner, but I am ...re it may serve as an Answer to what I have ...ritten against Sir *Humphry Mackworth*, to what ...have Transacted before the *Lords* in the Com...laint against the *Victualing*; 'tis as good as an ...*Occasional Conformity Bill* to me; for hereby I can ...ave no Communication with my Friends in ...*London*, no Conversation with my Family or ...Books: But all this will not signifie much, an ...hundred Years hence; my Enemies, as well as ...my self, shall then be quiet enough.

*Country-m.* Ay, but Sir, here is something con...erns me in this Proclamation. It strictly Charges ...nd Commands all Her Majesties Loving Sub...cts, of which Number I am one, not to Conceal ...on; pray, Sir, what Legal Penalty is there in ...his Case?

*Obs.* Those that Penn'd the Proclamation per...haps may know, but I protest I don't; 'tis dan...gerous to Conceal a Person Convicted of Capital ...Crimes; but in this Case, I'll bear thee Harmless; ...I am not Convicted, for I was never Try'd; I am ...not *Outlaw'd*, for I never fled from the *Justice* of ...the *Law*, but from the *Charges* of the *Sergeant at ...Arms*; of whose Fees our *Law Books* take no Cog...nizance.

But I find something more particular in this Proclamation, than I have observed in any other of this Kind; all the Subjects of *England* are Commanded to Apprehend me, without taking to their Assistance a *Peace Officer*.

*Country-m.* Then you have the Mark of *Cain* put upon you, in some Measure: What will you do in this Case?

*Obs.* Honest *Country-man*, I am an *Englishman*, and know my *Freedom* and *Liberty* is such; and I will defend it to the last Drop of Blood; and no Authority under the Copes of Heaven shall deprive me of it, but such an Authority as is warranted by our Laws.

*Country-m.* 'Tis a strange thing that there are no more *Seditious Writers* in *England*; what not one besides your self? There's *Harry-Clitas* has call'd our Parliament a Pack of *Hounds*; nay, he said t'other Day, that one of the Queens *Major Generals* had Ordered three of his Troopers as a Body Guard to secure you from the Justice of the *House of Commons*; this smells of *Sedition*, to Publish to the World that the Parliament and the Queens Soldiers are at a Variance, and that the Parliament raises Money to maintain Men against themselves.

*Obs.* Thou talkest strangely; *Harry* is for *Perkin*, he's against the House of *Hannover*, he's against the *Bishops*, the House of *Lords*, and the *Present Settlement*; he's for *Passive-Obedience*, *Non-Resistance*, *Slavery*, and the *Occasional Conformity* Bill; he'll Steer clear, I'll warrant thee.

*Country-m.* Then you are the Man. —— I could say something; but Hang it, if I should be taken into Custody 'twould make the worse for you, than you would have no Company at all; Possess your Soul in *Patience*, these Storms will blow over, the Time will come when an Honest Man shall be in Fashion, Violent Motions are of little Duration. —— Come, Master *Observator*, if all the World speak ill of you, I'll say you are an Honest Man, here's the Queens Health in a Bumper of *October* Beer! Let the *Knaves* and *Fools* at *London* drink *Claret* as Adulterated and Corrupt as their *Minds* and *Consciences*, we'll Drink the Juice of *Barley*; and lest we should want, I'll set our *Joan* to Brewing to Morrow.

*Obs.* Oh rare *Country-man*! Thou art a choice Friend in Affliction; Prithee how do I look? Am I the same Man as I was three Months ago?

*Country-m.* The very same, upon my honest Word; no more affrighted than was Sir *J*—— *M*——, when he was Hunted by the *Hare*. *Drink and drive Care away.* T'other Bumper, Mr *Observator*, to the House of *Hannover*: Good *Drink*, and good *Thoughts*, will keep the Melancholly *Devil* from your Earthly *Tabernacle*. —— But, Sir, your Friends at *London* say you might have Prospered better, had not you taken upon you to detect the *Frauds* of Men in Offices.

*Obs.*

*Obs.* I believe so too; but my Duty to the *Queen* and my *Country*, required my Service therein. Soon after I had brought the Complaint of the *Victualing*, before the *House of Lords*, I was Ordered into Custody of the *Sergeant at Arms*, attending the *House of Commons*, for *Crimes* of which I had not an Opportunity given to clear my self before the *Committee*; and no One in the World can say I am the Author of that Paper, questioned by Parliament, but by hear-say; no one has been Examined upon Oath on that head; and so the Case stands. I designed also to lay the Mis-managements of the *Post-Office* before the *Lords*, with the Combination of the *Custom-House*; and so in short, I don't know but the Queen is at 100 *l.* Charge to keep me from Saving Her an Hundred Thousand Pound *per Annum*.

*Country-m.* Now you talk of a *Custom-House*, a Friend of mine told me that a *Custom-House-Man*, I think they say he's a *Coast-Waiter*, that lives in *Chambers-street* in *Goodmans-Fields*, was not long since standing at his Door when a *Hawker Woman* was crying the *Observator* along the Streets; whereupon he call'd her *Bitch* and *Whore*, and told her *The Author deserv'd to be Hang'd*; the Woman call'd him *Rogue*, and went along bawling out the *Observator*, the *Observator*.

*Obs.* I know the Man you speak of, he was not long since *Footman* to a certain Great Man. That *Custom-House* is an *Hospital* for *Footmen*, who are Damn'd Sawcy when they get into Preferment; but I don't trouble my head about these Creatures.

*Country-m.* They are not worth your Notice; you are heartily welcome to me, here you may be retired from the World, and enjoy your self in your own Thoughts and Contemplations. Methinks the Poetick Spirit is upon me, I'll e'en give you some *Extrumpore Doggrel* on this Subject.

*From* Fools *and* Knaves *that throng the* City,
*From* Whores, *some Ugly, Foolish, Witty*;
*From noise of* Hawkers *in the Street*,
*Who with their* Proc's *our Ears do greet*;
*From* Bristled Hogs *and* Packs of Hounds,
*You're come to trusty* Roger's *Grounds*,
*Who tho' a* Villager *and* Clown,
*Disdains the* Vices *of the* Town;
*Will* Plow *and* Toil, *and* Work, *and* Sweat,
*Rather than grow by* Frauds *as Great*
*As those that* Hust *and* Speak *full big*
*With* Damme Oaths *and* Monstrous Wig;
*Who cheat the* Publick, *and betray*,
*And go to* Hell *the Shortest Way.*
*Here you may Sit in heat at Noon*,
*And view the Beauties of the* Sun;
*At Night th' Enamel'd* Hemisphere,
*With many a Lucid Twinkling* Star;
*Your Mind, when you're detain'd at Home*,
*May o'er the wide Creation Roam.*
*You may by Thought at once Survey*
*The Empires of the* Earth *and* Sea;
*You may conclude our Fathers Cause*,
*Who Bravely Fought for* English *Laws*;
*Who left us that Inherent* Right
*For which your Pen's engag'd to* Fight.
*May ne'er the darkness of the* Night
Malice *Immense, nor* Envy *dread*,
*Wither the* Lawrels *on your Head*:
*May* Heaven *the Man in safety keep*,
*Till he his Labours Fruit shall Reap*;
*Preserve this House from* Elves *and* Fairies
Sic Siti Lætantur Lares.
*May no* Hobgoblin Messenger
*Good Master* Observator *scare*,
*Nor his Retiring place discover*,
*Till the Impending Storm is over.*

*Obs.* I thank you, Honest *Country-man*, your good Wishes and Prayers; I don't k[now] what *your* Lines may do; but at present ne[ither] *my* Verse nor *my* Prose will please some of People.


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